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Defense Threat Reduction IAC

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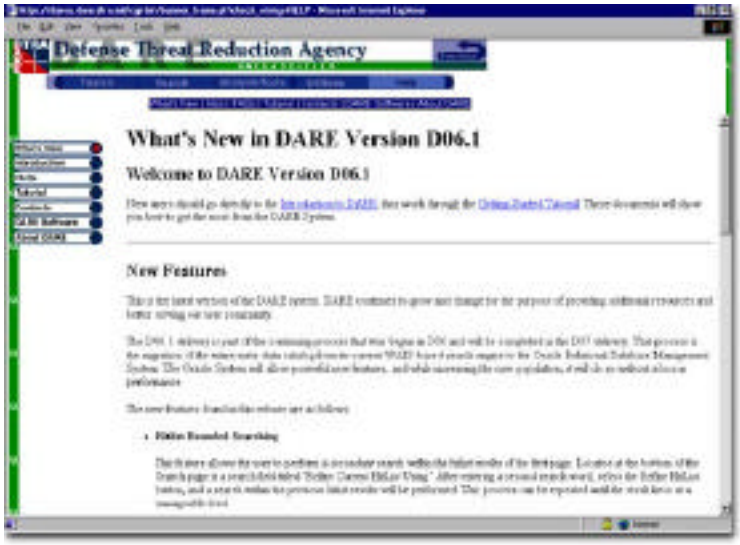
DTRIAC | Story 1 | Story 2

Data Archival and Retrieval Enhancement (DARE)

Imagine a universe of information that contains reports, documents, photographs, film, waveforms, tables, diagrams… Imagine next that this universe consists of tens of millions of document pages and other data items. Now imagine that you are directed by the Department of Defense (DoD) to serve as the steward of this information and find a way both to preserve it and make it accessible to users in an easy, reliable way.

The “universe,” so to speak, is the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA) data and information. DARE is DTRA's strategic data preservation and knowledge management information system, providing its users rapid and intuitive online access to critical Agency knowledge and all DTRA scientific and technical information products. Access to DARE is limited to authorized users.



Continued on Story 1

NTPR Team Awarded Silver Quality Citation

Ralph Meoni, President, ITT Industries, Advanced Engineering & Sciences, was on hand recently to present the Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Case File Preservation Team with the Silver Team Quality Citation. The award was the result of their outstanding contribution in preserving all individual case files of nuclear weapons workers on microfilm, which could be used at a later date.

“The ITT Industries' Quality Award is the longest standing quality award in the Fortune 500. This award is in its 30th year and recognizes those who have met very demanding standards for exceptional achievement,” explained Meoni. “The winners of this award join an elite group within our company and can be proud of their achievement.”

David Post performs a quality control check on the microfilm containing the case file of a nuclear weapons worker.

Continued on Story 2

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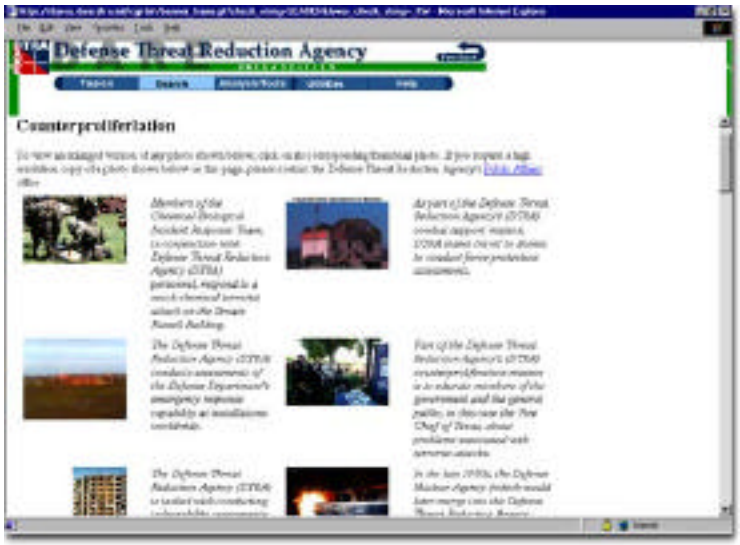
Data Archival and Retrieval Enhancement (DARE) (continued)

DARE is an important element of DTRA's knowledge preservation initiative to collect and preserve past, present, and future data/knowledge generated across all DTRA mission areas. DARE preserves data (reports/documents, photographs, film, waveforms, tables, and diagrams) and the knowledge of the experts in a single, readily accessible database, effectively archiving these diverse data forms while providing users with data access via search engines, online data analysis tools, and a data ordering system DARE has significantly improved and streamlined ways the entire community can generate, collect, preserve, retrieve, analyze, and distribute special weapon effects and related scientific and technical information.

The Defense Threat Reduction Information Analysis Center (DTRIAC) operates and maintains the two DARE systems as well as a data conversion center. A focus on data population has increased DARE holdings by 500 percent for documents and by over 1000 percent for numeric data. The Advanced Engineering & Sciences Division of ITT Industries operates DTRIAC and is responsible for maintaining DTRA's collection and overseeing DARE. As an archival system, DARE provides for the permanent retention of DTRA's data for posterity. As a retrieval system, DARE provides an easy to use and efficient means of accessing DTRA's data. With DARE's extensible architecture, which allows for creation of discrete data collections, the DARE concept can be applied to any organizational data. The following are some of DARE's significant features and capabilities—

- Knowledge Preservation Features
  - WMD Guides: Multimedia Summaries
  - Collections (e.g., Events, Subject, Personal)
  - Technical Review Notes (e.g., Commentary about Individual Data Items)
- Numerous Data Types Supported
  - Documents, Numeric data, Photographs, Engineering Drawings, Tables, Software, Digital Videos
- Links to Analysis Tools
  - Interactive and downloadable
- Online Product Order Subsystem
  - Provides Alternative to Downloading Large Documents
  - Diverse Media Capability (CD, floppy, tape)
  - Automatic Order Status Tracking
- Online User Support
  - Tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions, User Manuals



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NTPR Team Awarded Silver Quality Citation (continued)

From left to right: Chari Vinjamuri, Cheryl Singleton, William Billado, Ralph Meoni, Michele Connor, David Post.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) established the NTPR Program in 1978 to identify about 400,000 Department of Defense (DoD) military and civilian personnel who participated in U.S. atmospheric nuclear testing and in the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The NTPR Program initiated intensive research of the broadest scope to identify those individuals.

Since the start of the NTPR Program, about 120,000 individuals have contacted the program for participation or dose information. For each contact, DTRA created a case file containing all correspondence sent and received as well as supporting research documents Unlike the research documents in the libraries, which are primarily copies, the case files are mostly original documents and cannot be replaced if a catastrophic event (such as a fire or flood) occurs.

The Defense Threat Reduction Information Analysis Center (DTRIAC) was tasked by DTRA to assemble the NTPR Case File Preservation team and accomplish the meticulous job of preserving those files.

Dave Post, the team's Site Supervisor, expressed the importance of their mission, “These records belong to folks who were exposed to radiation over the years while working with nuclear weapons. It's important that we preserve and document them in order for the Government to determine whether or not they are eligible for benefits.”

Post said the beginning stages of the project were difficult when trying to develop a smooth and expeditious process of microfilming the records, which contain approximately 1.5 million pages. “When we started this project in October 1999, we were completing about 3,000 pages per day,” he explained. “Since that time our team has incorporated new ideas and suggestions which have enabled us to complete about 5,000 pages per day, which is an increase in production of about 66 percent. This is a direct reflection on everyone's initiative to understand what we are doing and why. I'm extremely proud to be working with them.”

The team members are William Billado, Program Manager; David Post, Site Supervisor; Cheryl Singleton, Microfilm Technician; Chari Vinjamuri, Microfilm Technician; and Michele Connor, Process Scientist.

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